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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 001190

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [IN](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: NEPALESE POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN DELHI

Classified By: DCM Robert O. Blake, Jr. Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[11.](#) (U) This is an action request. See para 5.

[12.](#) (C) Sharing perspectives on Nepal developments with Polcouns and Poloffs on February 15, International Crisis Group (ICG) analyst Suman Pradhan (protect) reported on the growing number of Nepalese politicians who have converged in New Delhi in recent days, and their attempts to engage the Indian government and political class to restore democracy in their country. While many important political leaders remained under house arrest in Kathmandu, second rung leaders are working Indian contacts intensively, and intend to expand their reach in the weeks ahead. Pradhan, who has also relocated from Kathmandu for the time being, reported that these exile politicians have already seen Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, old friends like ex-PM Chandrashekar, NDA Convenor George Fernandes, and CPM leader Sitaram Yechury, and plan press conferences, seminars and other public meetings to advance their cause. They have deliberately not sought to engage with the BJP. Pradhan asserted there is support for the King in India among Hindu nationalist groups, royal families connected by marriage to the Palace, business interests, and in parts of the Army disappointed with the parties' handling of the Maoist insurgency.

[13.](#) (C) Arguing that New Delhi has the potential to become a major center of Nepalese democratic political activity outside Nepal, Pradhan cited a February 14 meeting of six Nepalese political parties in New Delhi that pressed the GOI to cut off all military assistance to the King (the GOI has already done this). This group included Pradeep Giri (Congress-D), KC Chitra Bahadur (NCP-MASAL), Rajinder Mahoto (NSP-A), Sekhar Koirala (Nepali Congress), Govind Koirala (NCP-UML), and Chandra Dev Joshi (NCP-United).

[14.](#) (C) Pradhan indicated that Nepalese politicians also intend to reach out to a broad array of influential non-Indian individuals and organizations in New Delhi as part of their campaign to increase pressure on the King, and may seek an appointment with the Ambassador as well.

[15.](#) (C) Action Request: The GOI is of course already a major player in Nepal, but if New Delhi does in fact increasingly become a center of expatriate Nepalese democratic activity, Embassy will want to increase its contacts with Nepalese leaders here. We would be inclined for now to keep these contacts at the working level, not engaging at the Ambassador's level. As we look ahead, Post would appreciate guidance on dealing with such an eventuality.

MULFORD